

VENONA

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USSR

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POLITICAL SITUATION IN FINLAND AS DESCRIBED
BY ZILLIACUS TO "KLARA"
(1944)

From: STOCKHOLM

To: MOSCOW

8th January 1944

Nos. 87, 88

[2-part message complete]

(Part I) To VIKTOR[i],
To 8th Department.

ZILLIACUS(TAILLIAKUS)[ii], who arrived from FINLAND on
5th January, told "KLARA"[iii] the following:

DISTRIBUTION:

[Continued overleaf]

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"The Finnish Government [C] has no intention] of capitulating or making way for another government. It intends to carry on the struggle against the USSR until the Americans complete the invasion of Europe and take on the defence of Finnish interests vis-a-vis the USSR. The Government itself considers this to be a slim chance, since the Americans are not promising anything of the kind, but this is the only stance as far as the members of the Government

[17 groups unrecovered]

in(a) SUMEN. The only member of the Government who could be described as being in opposition and as being capable of bringing about capitulation is MELIN(VÄL'DEN)[iv]. Opposition

[31 groups unrecovered]

~~not in recent days~~
[c] In recent days, the Army has suffered enormous losses

[59 groups unrecoverable]

TAKIÖ[v]. The parliamentary opposition consists in the main of the Social-Democratic [1 groups unrecovered] Swedish People's Party.

[11 groups unrecovered]

from the Swedish People's Party [2 groups unrecovered]. The only one who speaks in Parliament is PURJELM(PURJEL'M)[vi]. Of the nine members of the governing body (FRAVLENIE) of the Social-Democratic Party the following represent the opposition: the former minister Eino PÄÄKÄLÄ[EJNO PÄÄKÄLÄ][vii], KETO[viii], Sylvia YLLIKKI[VII] [SYLVIA-KYLLIKI KILPI][ix] and Gunnar ANDERSSON[x]. [1 group unrecovered] - other nine KILPI[EJNO KILPI][xi],

[26 groups unrecovered]

the opposition and remainder - TAIHER, SALOVAARA[LÖVÄÄR][xii], REINKAHTER[KUHTER][xiii] and AALTONEN[xiv] - form the reactionary nucleus of the controlling body. The native, i group unrecovered, opposition also includes WIRHÄITI[WIRHÄIT'I][xv] ... ZILLIAC'S. This opposition consists of intellectuals, has no contact with the masses and does not have a leader of its own. Its activity limited to the distribution of an illegal [D] journal[xvi] and to speeches in Parliament, which, however, remain unknown to the masses.

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[Part II]

[2 groups unrecovered](c)

The programme of the Social-Democratic Party [7 groups unrecovered]:

1. Military

[31 groups unrecovered]

troops from PTTM. D.

3. Proof to R RUSSIA and the Allies that [2 groups unrecovered] seek a way both to peace and to friendly relations with RUSSIA. [3 groups unrecovered] [3 groups unrecovered] BETTS type government could establish relations with the USSR similar to Soviet-[Czechoslovak] relations[d]. P. SIVI[xxi], who was formerly sympathetic towards and in touch with the opposition, [5 groups unrecovered], [1 group unrecovered] in view of the fact that the opposition does not believe in its[e] future and considers that RUSSIA is not and will not be interested in it[e]. Unless RUSSIA adopts a favourable attitude, there is no [2 groups unrecovered] of success. RUSSIA, in his opinion, will rely on another [1 group unidentified][f]. There is also the organised opposition of the Communists and the opposition movement of the liberal and left-radical [1 group unidentified][f]. The latter is headed by the lawyer PERKKA[xxii]. They advocate an exclusively pro-Russian line and make no [D: claims] to "[4 groups unrecovered]", [3 groups unrecovered] or to [1 group unrecovered] FINLAND[SUV I], which the Social-Democratic opposition, as a "vitally important" [4 groups unrecovered] and Russian [C: bases]. [5 groups unrecovered] in the final analysis solve the Finnish question according to the Baltic States' [1 group unrecovered]. All the opposition trends are divided

[10 groups unrecovered]

parliamentary opposition. VUORI[xxiii], the Secretary of the Trades Unions, is, as before, a supporter of TAPPIR, but [3 groups unrecovered] considering the position of FINLAND now to be [9 groups unrecovered] members.

KILPI

[31 groups unrecovered].

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[39 groups unrecoverable]

and ZILLIACUS.

Note: Z.'s [Tr] information can be trusted. He described the position in FINLAND to KL/R as he himself sees and assesses it.

No. 14

VALERI M[mix]

Notes: [a] Or "to".

[b] This decrypts to "journalists" and it has been assumed that "journal", which is the next group in the code book, was intended.

[c] These two groups presumably represent a preamble e.g. "Continuation of telegram No. 14" or "Further to telegram No. 14".

[d] The SU芬 government signed a 20-year Treaty of Alliance with the USSR on 12th December 1943.

[e] Not clear to what "it" refers.

[f] The same unidentified group occurs in both positions.

Comments: [i] VIMTOR: Lt. Gen. P.M. FITIN.
[ii] ZILLIACUS: Possibly Doctor Lauri ZILLIACUS, member of the Social Democratic Party of FINL...
[iii] KL/R: ✓
[iv] WALDEN: ✓ Lt. Gen. Karl Rudolf WALDEN, non-party, Minister of Defence in the Finnish (LIINOMIES) Government.
[v] TANTER: ✓ Vaino Alfred TANTER, Social Democrat, Minister of Finance in the Finnish (LIINOMIES) Government.
[vi] PURUNJELI: ✓ Prof. Elias Ragnar PURUNJELI, member of the Finnish Parliament.

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